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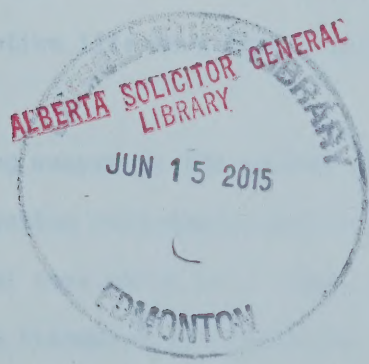


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ANNUAL REPORT

ADULT PROBATION AND FAMILY COURT SERVICES

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

1.

A. Probation is the Social Service of the Court. It furnishes the Court with the social and psychological data necessary for the Court to make a disposition which will serve the best interests of both the community and the individual before the Court. In the Family Court, it interposes a social service buffer between the family and the Court, so that the anger of family conflict may be dissipated and the marital partners given an opportunity under neutral auspices, to take a dispassionate look at their problems. It offers a skilled counselling service to families and to individuals in difficulty with the law.

Probation is a modern approach to the prevention and treatment of crime. Family Court Services were organized in Alberta in November, 1952, while Adult Probation was first introduced in Alberta in 1954. The aims of probation are twofold: the protection of the community, and control of criminal activity through treatment of the offender. Probation is based upon the principle that human conduct can be changed through the skilled use of social work techniques. It proposes to give the individual who has broken the law a chance to prove to himself and the community that he can learn to accept responsibilities and lead a productive life in a free society, under the guidance of a Probation Officer.

Probation is today's most promising weapon in the arsenal of those agencies within our Province who are combating delinquency and crime. It is a division of the field of correctional care which is a legal, social and personal service operating within the framework of a judicial setting. It consists of intake, investigation and supervision. Its purposes are protecting society, preserving the family as a unit, preventing delinquency and crime, and rehabilitating the offender.

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Probation is a method whereby a Judge decides on the basis of a thorough social legal investigation, that an offender is to be allowed to remain in the community, conditional upon his good behaviour.

Technically, then probation is a type of sentence which a person convicted of an offence is allowed to serve in the community, under the jurisdiction of the Court. He is subject to conditions of good conduct and to the supervision of a Probation Officer. If he complies with the conditions, his probationary status is terminated and he is discharged from the Court's jurisdiction. If he does not comply, the Court may impose another type of sentence, including commitment to an institution. In the broad sense in which it is used here, the word "probation" means not only a legal disposition and a status, but also a system of services and functions.

B. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Corrections Act (1970, c.23, s.1) provides for the establishment of the Alberta Corrections Service within the Department of the Attorney General. The stated purpose of this Corrections Service is "the correction and treatment of offenders against the law and the protection of the community by:

- (a) Providing, when requested by the court, information respecting the background of offenders prior to sentence,
- (b) Offering probation and parole supervision and counselling services to offenders against the law,
- (c) Safe custody and detention of inmates committed by the court to a correctional institution,
- (d) supervision, treatment and training of inmates with a view to their ultimate rehabilitation in society, and
- (e) Promoting and assisting programs designed to prevent and diminish crime within the community.

The Corrections Act (1970, c.23, s.4) provides for the appointment, pursuant to the Public Service Act, of a Director of Corrections, Probations Officers, and such other persons as are required for the administration of this Act.

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II. ORGANIZATION

A. Office Locations

The Adult Probation and Family Court Services have twenty offices based in seventeen locations throughout Alberta. Two centres, Edmonton and Calgary, have separate Family Court and Adult Probation Offices. In addition, the Head Office is also located in Edmonton. The other fifteen offices have a combined workload of both Adult Probation and Family Court cases.

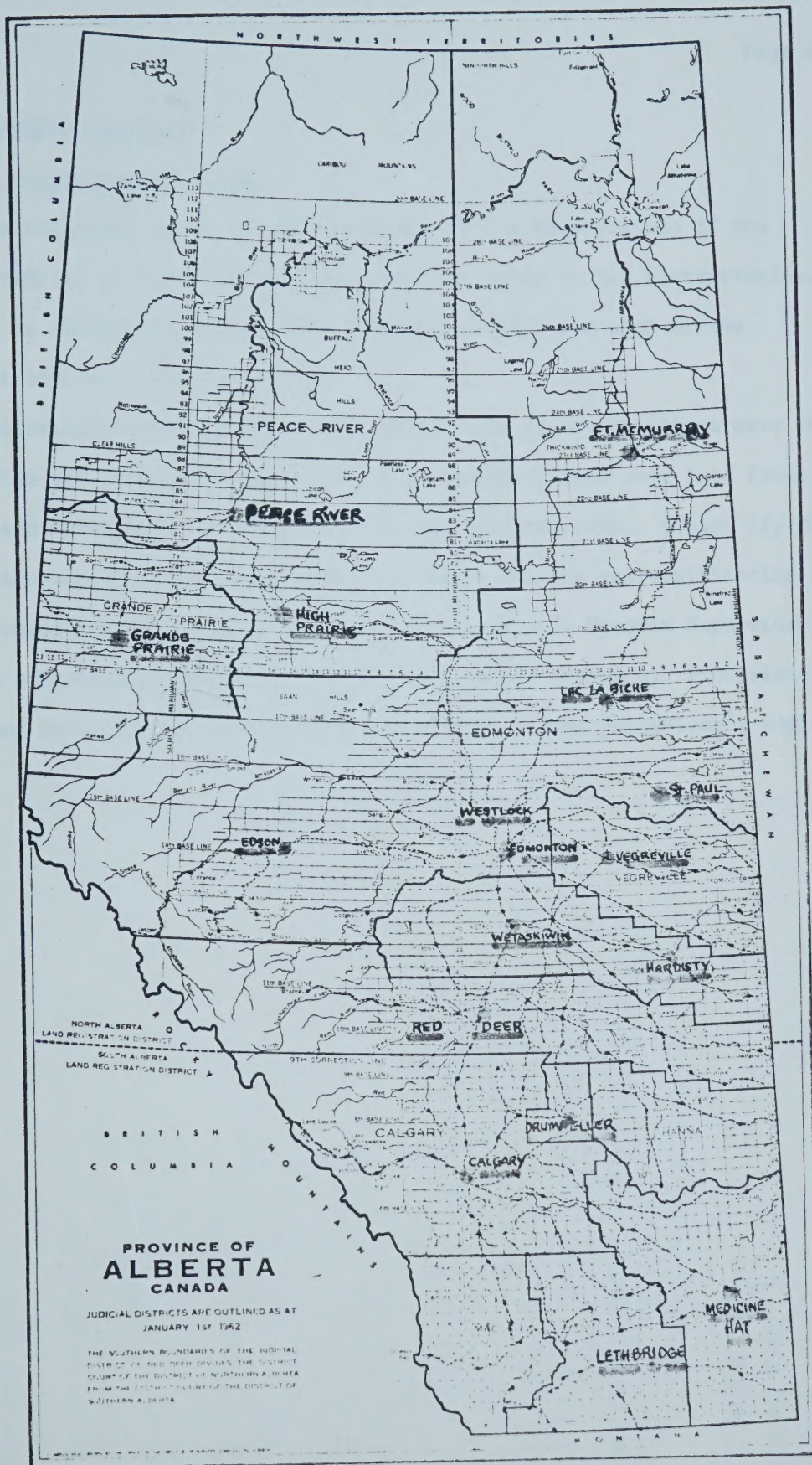
The breakdown of offices is as follows, and is depicted pictorially on the attached map of the Province of Alberta:

HEAD OFFICE

EDMONTON Adult Probation
EDMONTON Family Court
CALGARY Adult Probation
CALGARY Family Court

Combined Adult Probation and Family Court Offices:

WETASKIWIN
RED DEER
LETHBRIDGE
MEDICINE HAT
VEGREVILLE
ST. PAUL
EDSON
WESTLOCK
HIGH PRAIRIE
HARDISTY
LAC LA BICHE
GRANDE PRAIRIE
PEACE RIVER
FORT McMURRAY
DRUMHELLER



ORGANIZATION, Continued

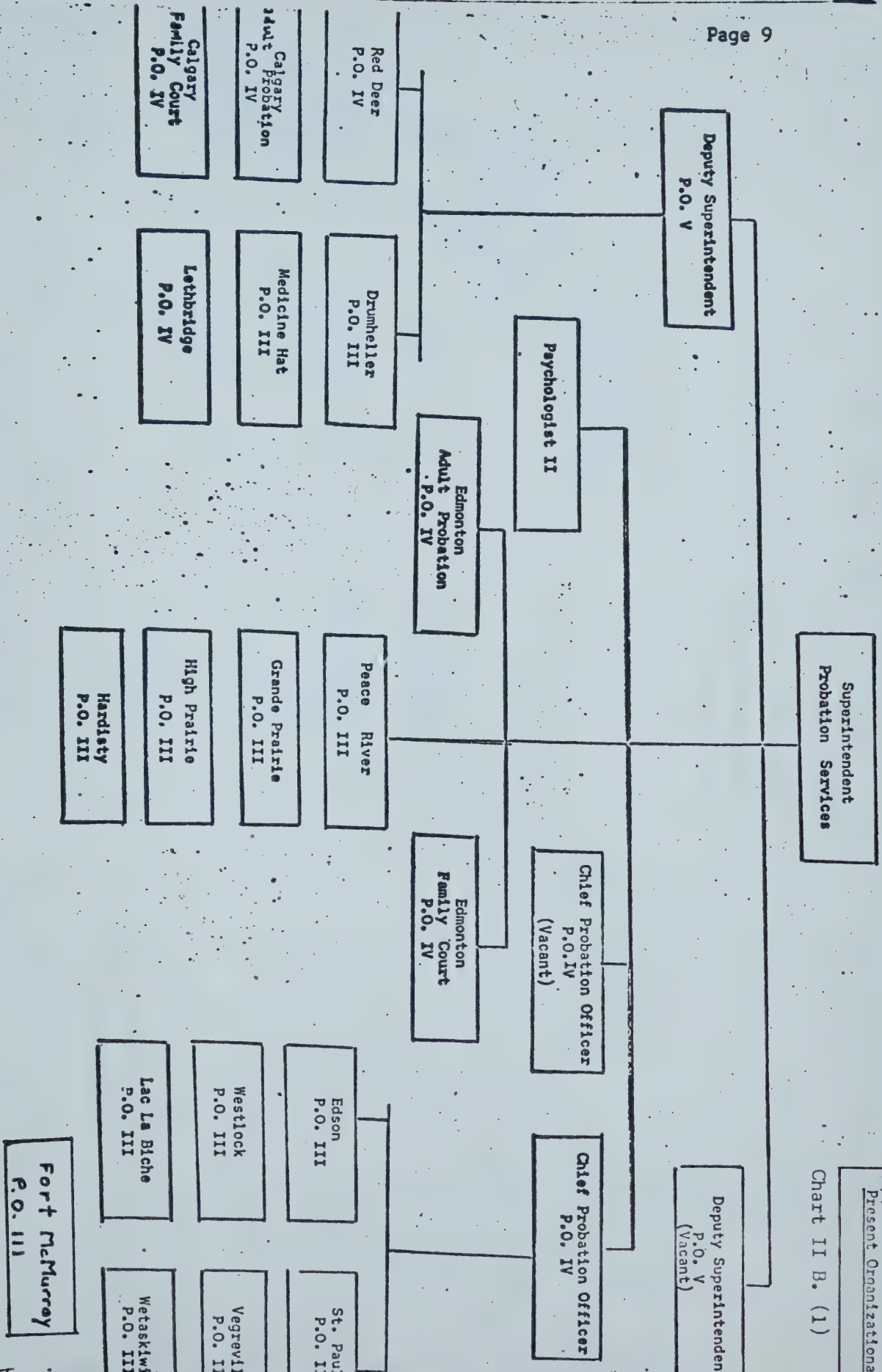
B. Organization Charts

The following chart is representative of the organization of the Branch offices up to December 31st, 1972, and prior to the restructuring. It also is indicative of Head Office responsibility for each of the Regional offices. (See Chart II B. (1)

Following reorganization of the Branch into areas, positions were reclassified and different organizational responsibilities came into focus. The present structure is represented on the attached chart. (Chart II, B.(2)

Estimates are now in the 1974-1975 budget for the reclassification of the Psychologist II position now vacant, to that of a Program Supervisor II, with an orientation towards research, planning and training. Provisions have also been made for the establishment of a Central Area Supervisor's position.

Chart II B. (1)



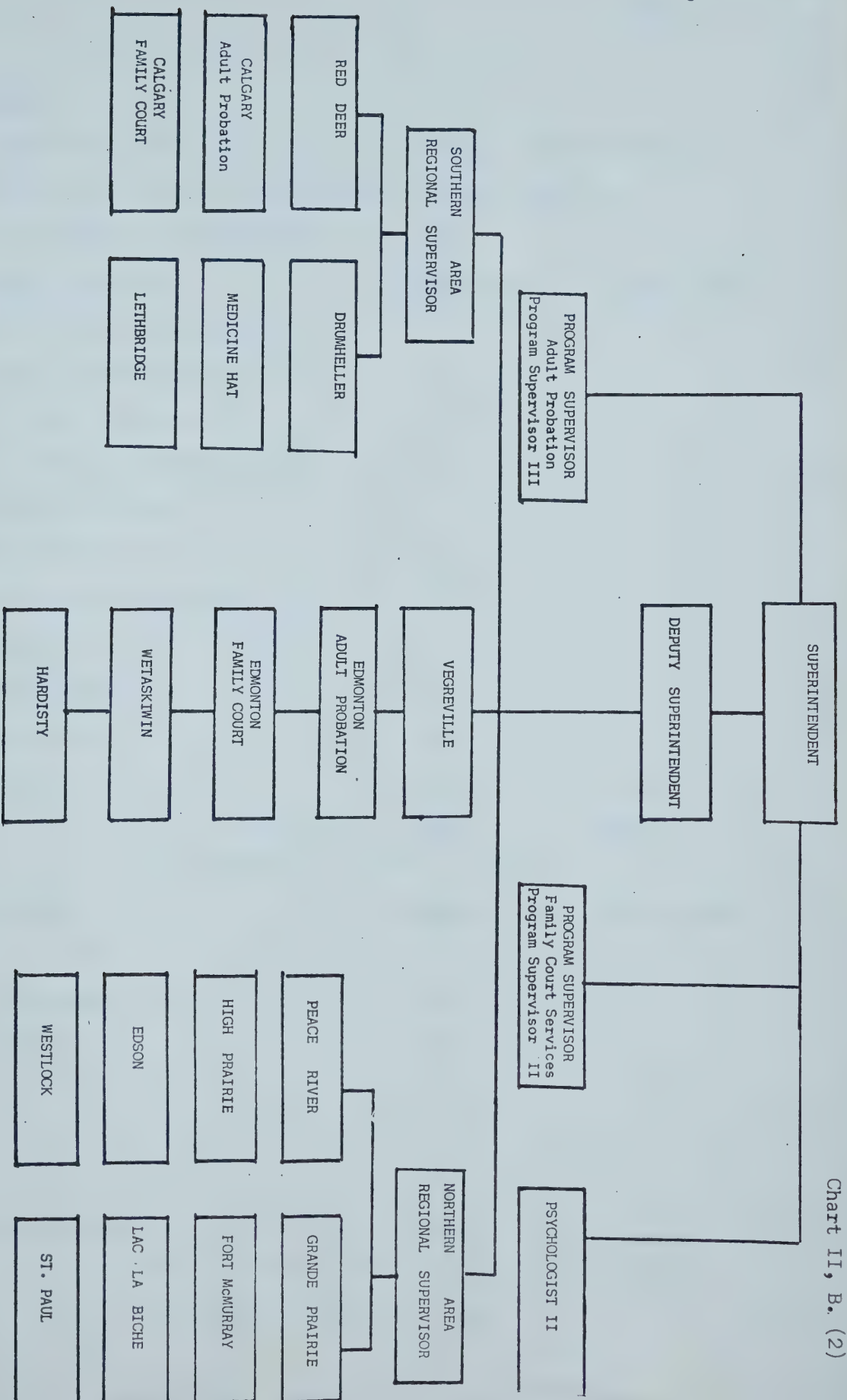


Chart II, B. (2)

III. PERSONNEL

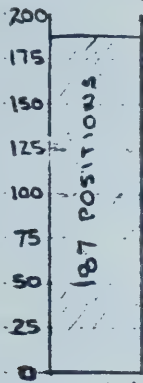
As of March 31st, 1973, there were 137 professional positions and 61 clerical positions in the Adult Probation and Family Court Services. A breakdown as to numbers in each position is as follows:

A. <u>Professional Positions</u>	<u>Number filled</u>	<u>Number Vacant</u>
Probation Services Superintendent	1	
Regional Welfare Administrator IV	1	
Welfare Program Supervisor III	1	
Regional Welfare Administrator III	1	1
Chief Probation Officers	7	1
Probation Officer III	11	1
Regional Welfare Administrator I	12	
Psychologist		1
Probation Officer II	2	
Probation Officer I	82	14
Social Worker I	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
Total Positions Filled	<u>119</u>	<u>18</u>
Total Professional Positions -	<u>137</u>	

B. <u>Clerical Staff</u>	<u>Number filled</u>	<u>Number Vacant</u>
Clerk Stenographer III	6	
Clerk Stenographer I-II	34	5
Clerk Typist I-II	10	
Clerk IV	1	
Clerk I-II	2	
Junior Clerk	2	
Switchboard Operator	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
Total Positions Filled	<u>56</u>	Vacant <u>5</u>
Total Clerical Positions -	<u>61</u>	

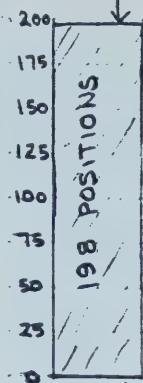
PERSONNEL CHARTS

NUMBER
OF STAFF



April 1/71 -
March 31/72

TOTAL PERSONNEL



April 1/72 -
March 31/73

5.9% increase
(11 positions)

total positions:

April 1/72 - March 31/73

professional - 137

clerical - 61

total 198

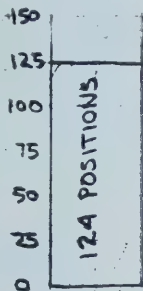
April 1/71 - March 31/72

professional - 124

clerical - 63

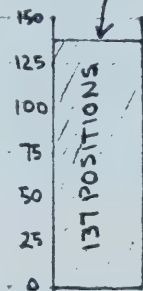
total 187

NUMBER
OF
PROFESSIONAL
STAFF



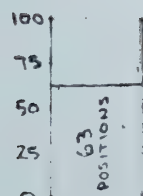
April 1/71 -
March 31/72

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL



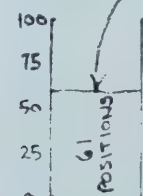
April 1/72 -
March 31/73

10.5% increase
(13 positions)



April 1/71 -
March 31/72

CLERICAL PERSONNEL



April 1/72 -
March 31/73

3.2% decrease
(2 positions)

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS AND RETIREMENTS for the
Period April 1st, 1972 to March 31st, 1973.

APPOINTMENTS

Miss N. Nevin	Calgary Family Court
Mrs. L. Markowski	Calgary Family Court
Cal Wrathall	Calgary Family Court
Miss C. Wightt	Calgary Family Court
Dennis St. Arnaud	Calgary Family Court
E.L. Moore	Calgary Adult
H.F. Dunham	Calgary Adult
Harry Deosoran	Calgary Adult
Miss D. Jacknisky	Calgary Adult
Robert Remmerde	Calgary Adult
Charles Fox	Calgary Adult
David Lorencz	Calgary Adult
Earl Nilsson	Edmonton Adult
Jack Cameron	Edmonton Adult
Richard Chappell	Edmonton Adult
Brian Bolan	Drumheller
Larry Benard	Drumheller
Alonzo Lockhart	Vegreville
Charles Hodgson	Vegreville
Charles Collett	High Prairie
Barry Switzer	St. Paul
Jeffrey Christian	Edson
Gary Mitchell	Grande Prairie

RESIGNATIONS

Miss J. Henkel	Calgary Family Court
A.J. Belanger	Calgary Family Court
Miss Marie Uly	Calgary Family Court
Miss N. Nevin	Calgary Family Court
Timothy Amy	Calgary Family Court
Douglas Black	Calgary Adult
E.S. Dare	Calgary Adult
Miss S. Beckman	Edmonton Adult
E.B. Jones	Edmonton Adult
Daniel Sinclair	Edmonton Adult
Robert Marko	Edmonton Adult
Edward Davies	Edmonton Adult
Michael Gallagher	Edmonton Adult
Bert Murray	Edmonton Family Court
L. Switzer	Wetaskiwin
Douglas Heckbert	Lac La Biche
L. Benard	Drumheller
C. Yellowhorn	Lethbridge
D. Denis	Grande Prairie

PROMOTIONS

T.W. Wilson	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer III
I.L. Hepher	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer III
Gary Dewarle	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer II
Mrs. G. Foster	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer II
Gary Dewarle	Probation Officer II to Probation Officer III
Charles Olson	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer III
L.L. Phillips	Probation Officer I to Probation Officer III
E.J. Blaise	Probation Officer IV to Regional Welfare Administrator IV (Deputy Superintendent)
G.D. Fralick	Probation Officer IV to Regional Administrator III
G.D. Fralick	Regional Administrator III to Program Supervisor III

TRANSFERS

Lee Barclay	Calgary Family Court to Calgary Adult Probation
I.L. Hepher	Edmonton Adult Probation to Lac La Biche
Richard Hiatt	Vegreville to Edmonton Family Court
Brian Supervich	St. Paul to Red Deer
A.A. Webster	St. Paul to Calgary Adult Probation
L.L. Phillips	Red Deer to St. Paul
Charles Olson	Edson to Hardisty
E.W. Hoople	Medicine Hat to Lethbridge
R.J. Burkett	High Prairie to Medicine Hat
A.T. Douglas	Hardisty to High Prairie
J.D. Hamilton	Vegreville to Edmonton Adult Probation
T.W. Wilson	Lac La Biche to Fort McMurray
Dale Ginther	High Prairie to Wetaskiwin

RETIREMENTS

Beresford Allan	Lethbridge
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IV. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During the fiscal year of April 1st, 1972, through March 31st, 1973, continued encouragement was given to our staff to attend courses and workshops. A total of 73 staff members took and completed 103 courses. These were designed primarily to increase the effectiveness of our workers through job enrichment and career planning.

Many of the programs presented were of an in-service nature and organized by our senior personnel in addition to their normal day-to-day tasks. Our staff made wide use of the courses presented by the Organizational Development Division of Central Personnel and will continue to do so in the following fiscal year.

Our Branch, in conjunction with the Department's Training Co-ordinator, has organized and conducted a program on Interviewing and Counselling for Adult Probation. This was held for five days at Holy Redeemer College and was attended by twelve selected Probation Officers from across the Province. This falls in line with the goal of our total training program which is to identify needs, establish a commonality, and implement on a province-wide basis. Future plans indicate the development of an in-service training program for Family Court Probation Officers.

The other major program we participated in was the presentation of a course on Interpersonal Skills conducted by Dr. John Peyton. This was attended by twenty Probation Officers from across the Province.

Several staff members are involved with the upgrading of their education and support is being given where possible through course subsidization.

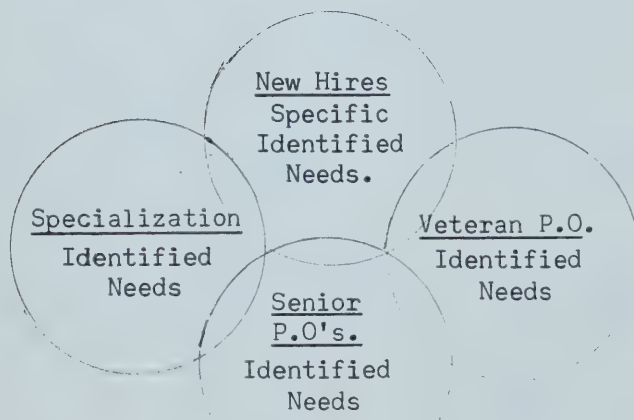
The other area that our staff is involved in is the development of skills with relation to specific social problems, such as drug and sex offenders. These offenders are becoming more prominent and, as such, our staff is required to have a high degree of competency in these areas.

V. TRAINING

In training, we are stressing a co-ordinated approach toward growth and development through career planning and the re-enforcement of our objectives.

This type of philosophy with regard to training will hopefully be an excellent technique for utilization of resources as well as ensuring a uniform, high quality of service provided.

In essence, our training will be based on identified needs. Within this, we have identified four intersecting areas from which our staff will logically pass as their career develops in this Branch. The following diagram clarifies these areas:

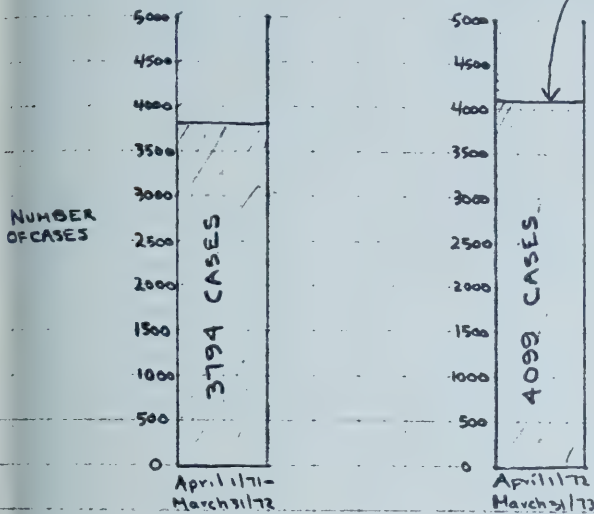


VI STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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A Adult Probation

1. PERSONS ON PROBATION

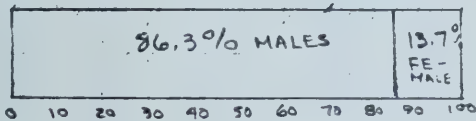


persons on probation
as of March 31/73 - 4099

persons on probation
as of March 31/72 - 3794

total increase - 305

PERSONS ON PROBATION



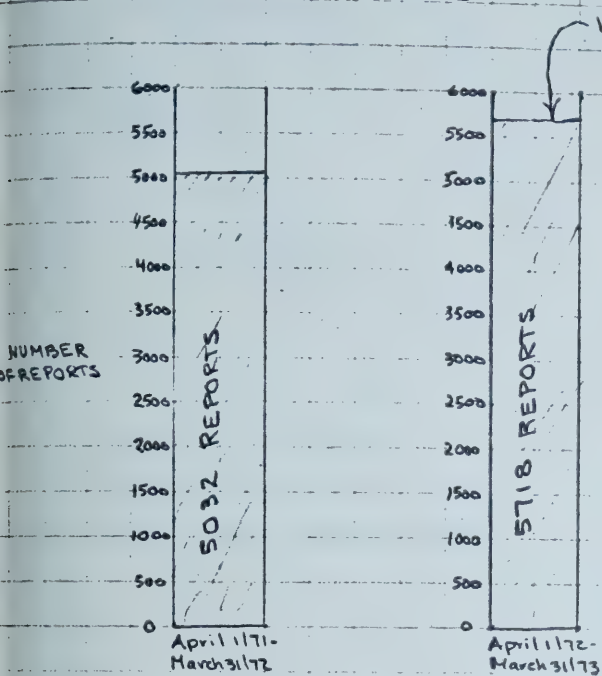
%
MALES - FEMALE
ON PROBATION

males on probation
as of March 31/73 - 3437

females on probation
as of March 31/73 - 662

total - 4099

2 PROBATION REPORTS



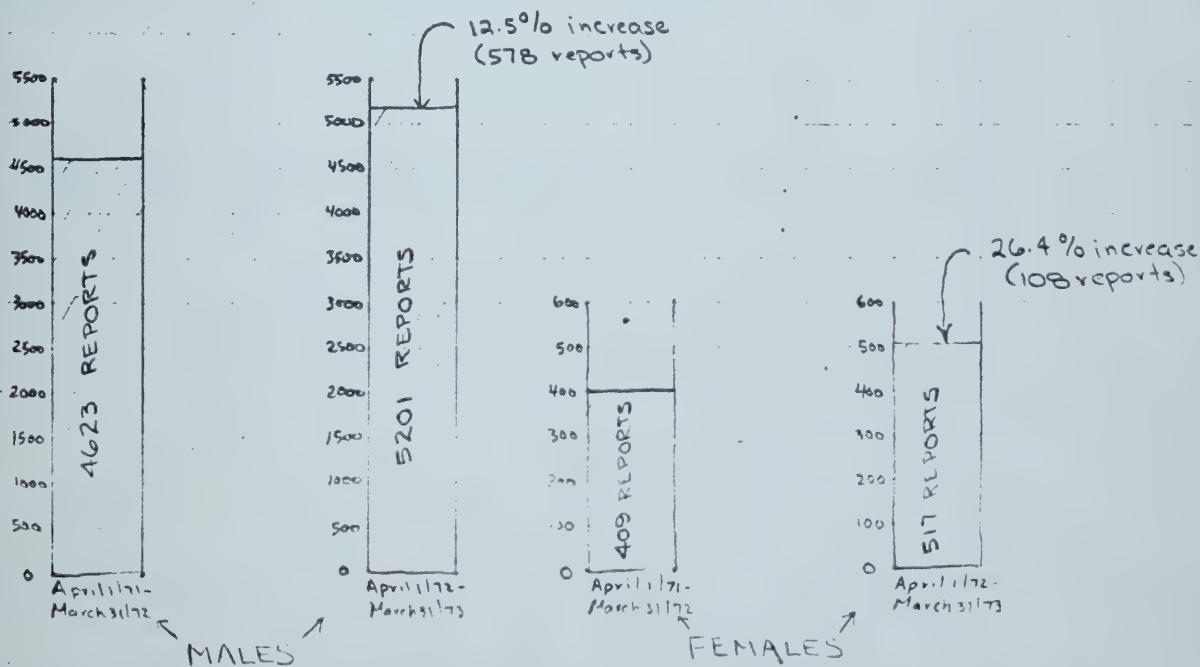
number of probation
reports compiled

April 1/72 - Mar. 31/73 - 5718

number of probation
reports compiled

April 1/71 - Mar. 31/73 5032

total increase 686

TOTAL PROBATION RE-
PORTS COMPILED

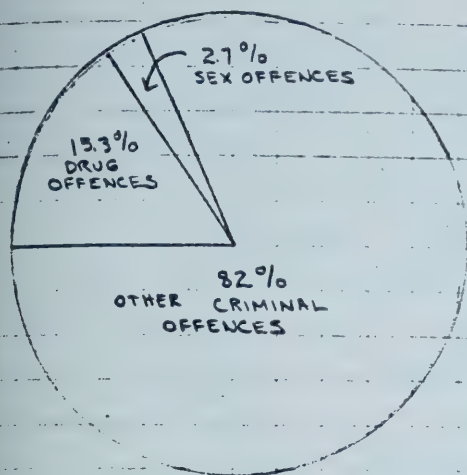
PROBATION REPORTS COMPILED DIVIDED BY SEX (1971-72 - 1972-73)

probation reports compiled
for males April 1/71 - Mar. 31/72 4623

probation reports compiled
for males April 1/72 - Mar. 31/73 5201

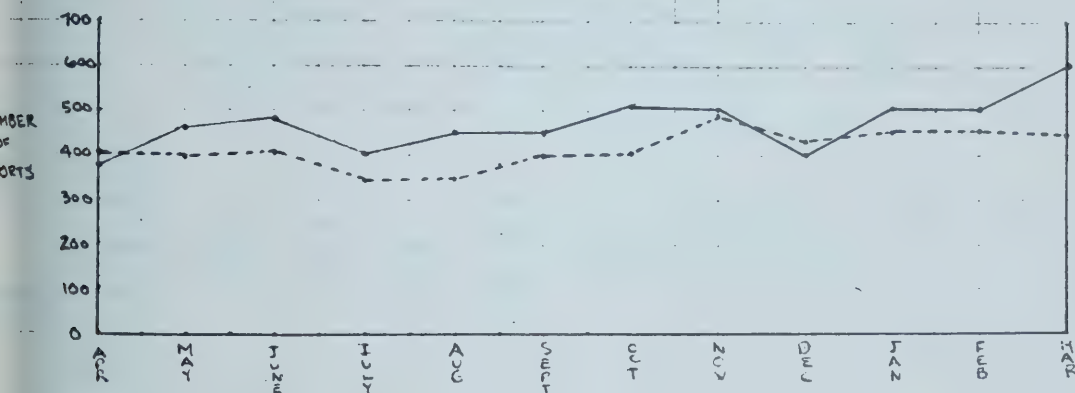
probation reports compiled
for females April 1/71 - Mar. 31/72 409

probation reports compiled
for females April 1/72 - Mar. 31/73 517



type of offence	number
1. drugs	875
2. sex	154
3. other criminal	4689
total	5718

PROBATION REPORTS DIVIDED BY TYPE OF CRIME.
APRIL 1/72 - MARCH 31/73.



PROBATION REPORTS COMPILED BY MONTHS

APRIL 1/72 - MARCH 31/73 - ———

APRIL 1/71 - MARCH 31/73 - - - - -

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3 ADJUSTED CASELOADS

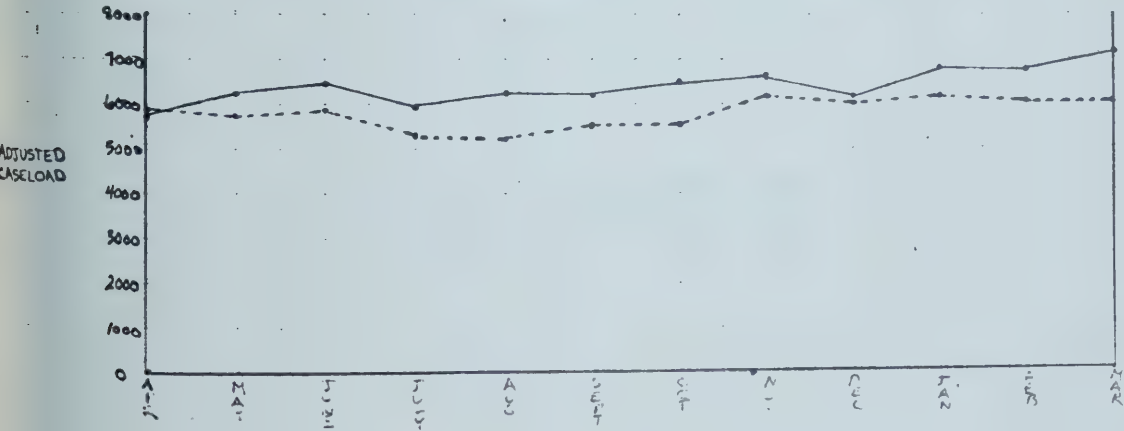
An adjusted caseload is determined monthly by adding the total number of cases on probation to five times the number of reports prepared in that month. This is based on the premise that the time spent on the preparation of one probation report is equal to the amount of time required to supervise five probationers.

Adjusted caseload as of March 31, 1973 - 7124

Adjusted caseload as of March 31, 1972 - 6009

% increase in adjusted caseload 16.9%

A truer picture of the comparison of adjusted caseloads can better be seen in the following graph



A. ADJUSTED CASELOAD

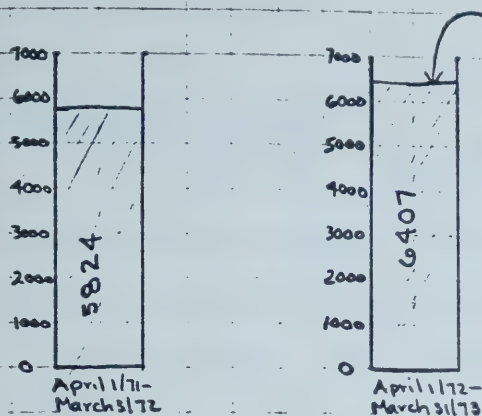
A. ACTUAL NUMBER

APRIL 1972 - MARCH 1973

	APR 72	MAY 72	JUN 72	JUL 72	AUG 72	SEP 72	OCT 72	NOV 72	DEC 72	JAN 73	FEB 73	MAR 73
ADJUSTED CASELOAD	5815	6272	6428	5930	6249	6221	6501	6670	6177	6715	6714	7124

	APR 72	MAY 72	JUN 72	JUL 72	AUG 72	SEP 72	OCT 72	NOV 72	DEC 72	JAN 73	FEB 73	MAR 73
ACTUAL NUMBER	5276	5700	5817	5359	5204	5616	5612	6100	6013	6151	6007	6009

ADJUSTED CASELOAD (ACTUAL NUMBER)



average monthly adjusted
caseload - April 1/72 - March 31/73 - 6407

average monthly adjusted
caseload - April 1/71 - March 31/72 - 5824

% increase 9.9%

AVERAGE MONTHLY
ADJUSTED CASELOAD

4. BREACHES:

The total number of violation reports filed that were acted upon pursuant to Sections 664 and 666 of the Canadian Criminal Code from April 1/72 - March 31/73

187

5. TERMINATIONS

The total number of files terminated during the fiscal year of April 1/72 - March 31/73

2742

6. DELAYED PROBATION

The total number of files that were not acted upon pursuant to Sections 664 and 666 of the Canadian Criminal Code from April 1/72 - March 31/73

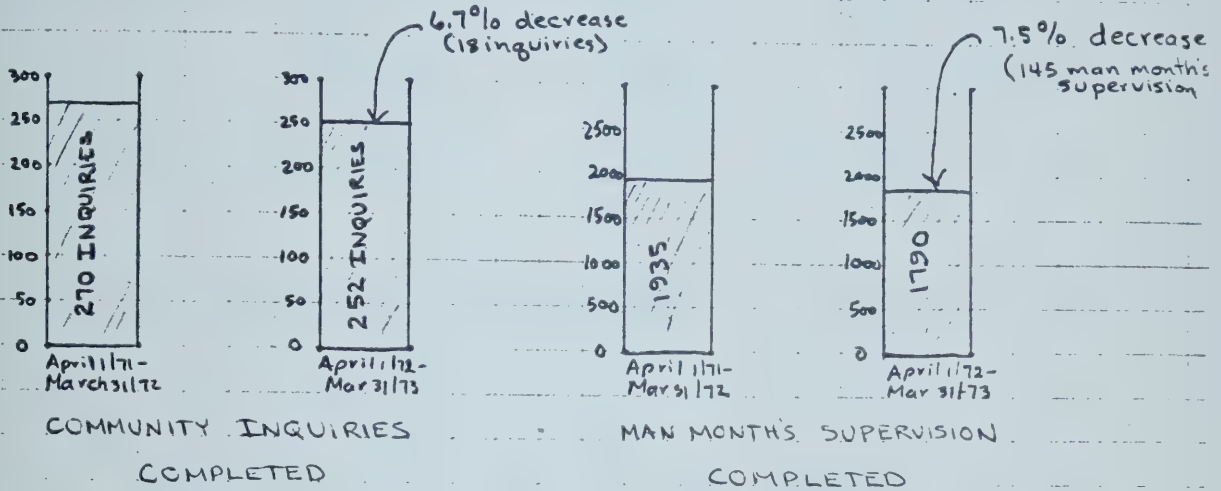
312

STATISTICS, Continued

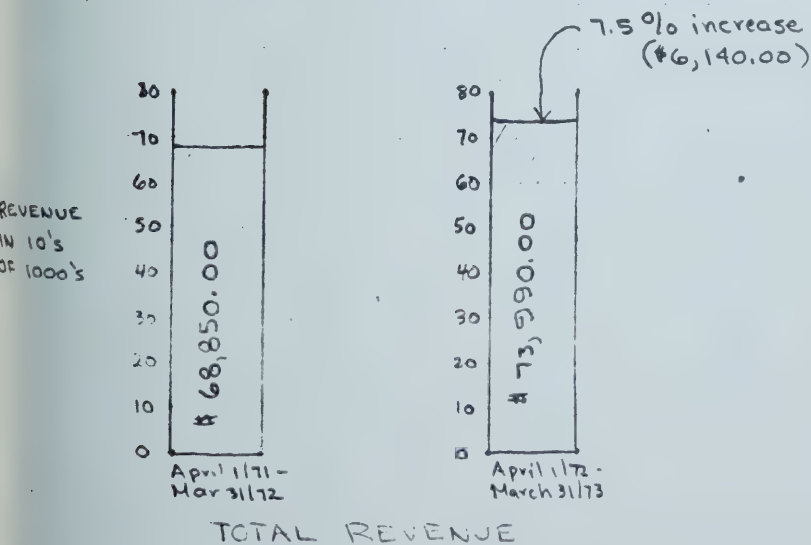
As of March 31st, 1972, there were 3,794 cases under active supervision in Adult Probation. Between April 1st, 1972, and March 31st, 1973, an additional 3,736 cases were placed on probation. This gives us a total of 7,530 cases dealt with during the fiscal year of 1972-73. In addition, 3,244 files were terminated successfully, and 187 files had their probation breached. Thus the total number on probation as of March 31st, 1973, was 4,099 cases, an 8% increase over the 1971-72 fiscal year.

7. NATIONAL PAROLE

At present, our service has an agreement with the National Parole Board in which we prepare community inquiries and supervise parolees. This work is paid for on the basis of \$45.00 for each inquiry and \$35.00 for each man month's supervision.

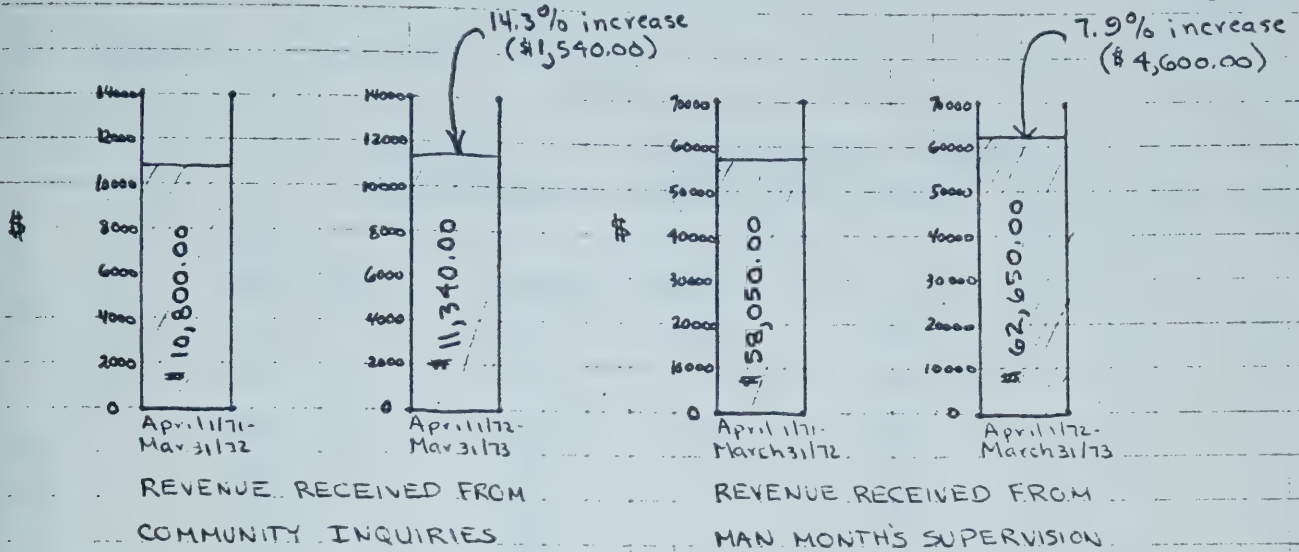


The revenue received from the National Parole Board is depicted in the following charts



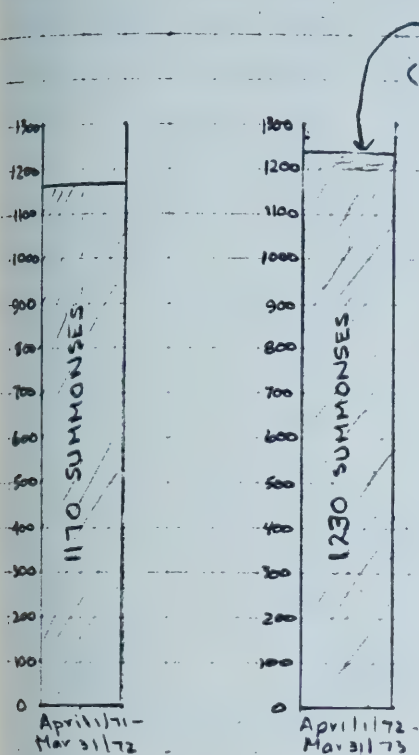
REVENUE BREAKDOWN

Page 24



As is evident by the charts, the work done for the National Parole Board decreased slightly in the fiscal year from April 1/72-Mar 31/73. There was, however, an increase in revenue of \$5,140.00 (7.5%) from the previous fiscal year. This increase in revenue is accounted for by the increase in charges from \$30.00 to \$35.00 for man month's supervision and from \$40.00 to \$45.00 for community inquiries conducted.

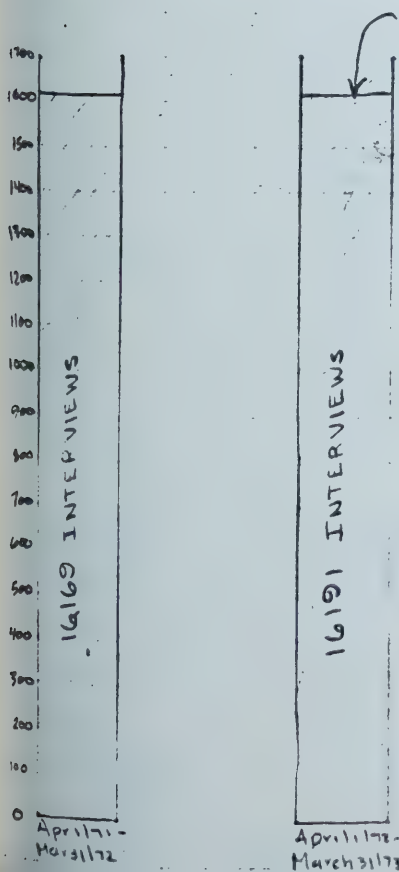
B Family Court



SUMMONSES SERVED

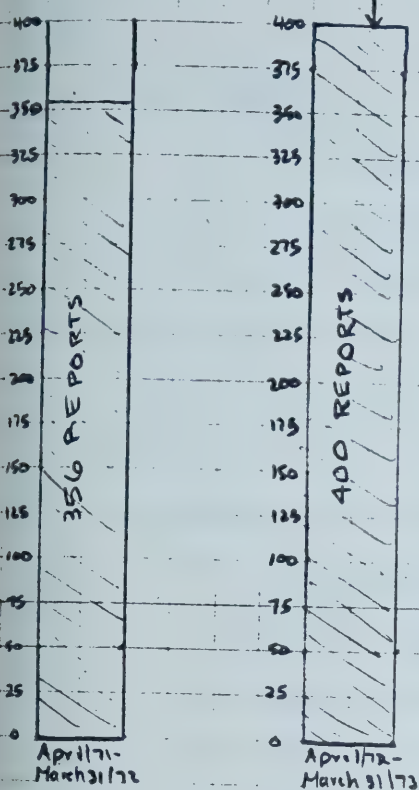
SUMMONSES SERVED

	Edm/Calgary Family Courts (April 71 - March 31/72)	Others	Edm/Calgary Family Courts (April 72 - March 31/73)	Others
Month				
April	48	40	70	59
May	47	39	51	73
June	70	40	46	71
July	43	39	39	61
Aug	51	44	27	34
Sept	64	74	44	57
Oct	61	68	53	67
Nov	65	33	37	51
Dec	35	49	49	49
Jan	38	48	45	60
Feb	44	38	49	44
Mar	48	44	54	40
Totals	614	556	564	666
	1170		1230	



FAMILY COUNSELLING INTERVIEWS

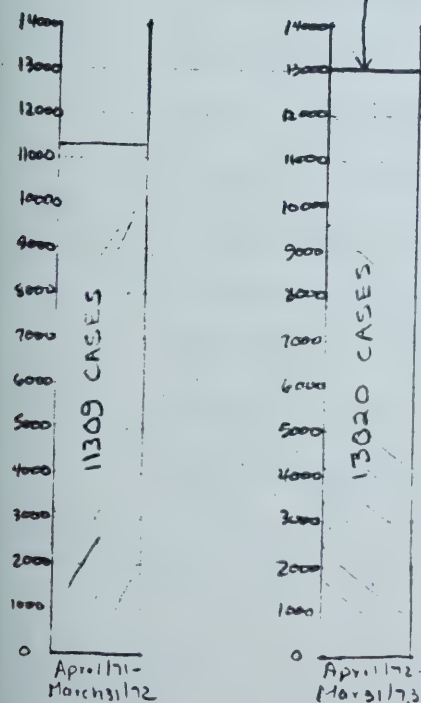
	Edm/Calgary Family Courts (Apr/71 - Mar/72)	Others	Edm/Calgary Family Courts (Apr/72 - Mar/73)	Others
Month				
April	1127	491	844	392
May	1231	419	883	428
June	1463	392	881	420
July	923	298	739	331
Aug	916	375	787	381
Sept	906	470	895	430
Oct	849	397	944	545
Nov	906	394	940	507
Dec	724	263	945	474
Jan	830	409	975	483
Feb	724	328	985	436
Mar	893	451	1050	485
Totals	11552	4617	10863	5328

CUSTODY REPORTS

	Edm/Calgary	Others	Edm/Calgary	Others
	Family Courts		Family Courts	
Month	(April 71 - March 31/72)		April 72 - March 31/73	
April	31	8	26	6
May	22	4	21	8
June	21	7	22	7
July	17	3	26	6
Aug	24	6	22	3
Sept	18	9	21	5
Oct	25	9	26	9
Nov	25	7	23	11
Dec	15	9	25	8
Jan	12	6	31	3
Feb	20	8	35	6
Mar	36	14	39	5
Totals	266	90	323	77
	356		400	

CUSTODY REPORTS

15.1% increase
(1711 cases)

ACTIVE ENFORCEMENT

	Edm/Calgary	Others	Edm/Calgary	Others
	Family Courts		Family Courts	
Month	(April 71 - March 31/72)		April 72 - March 31/73	
April	544	295	748	422
May	747	310	603	509
June	709	325	587	461
July	347	389	597	310
Aug	524	348	701	322
Sept	636	377	774	321
Oct	581	227	804	319
Nov	575	248	741	298
Dec	617	246	778	343
Jan	752	275	825	315
Feb	718	360	850	278
Mar	726	381	872	212
Totals	7526	3783	8525	4115
	11309		13020	

ACTIVE ENFORCEMENT

VII. PROGRAMS

In the past year the Probation Services have expanded considerably into the area of programming. Generally, the Probation Officers who are involved with a program are still responsible for their day-to-day functions. As a result, most of the officers devote a certain amount of their free time to keep the program operational. This section is, for the most part, the preventative aspect of probation work, as well as liaison with other agencies. The programs are as follows:

A. Court Worker Program:

As Probation Officers are officers of every Court of the Province of Alberta, we endeavor to have workers present at the sittings of all criminal courts, particularly the Provincial Court. At present, we are providing service to and liaison with 133 Courts sitting at various times throughout the Province.

B. Community Awareness Program:

This is a continuously functioning program in which the majority of our offices throughout the province are involved. Essentially, Probation Officers provide speaking engagements in the community at such places as service clubs, church groups, high schools, universities, and to other related agencies, such as social workers, correctional officers, and police officers. These talks may relate to the functioning of probation as a whole, or may deal with specific socio-legal problems. This program has been well received by the community and has expanded considerably in the past year.

PROGRAMS, ContinuedC. Impaired Drivers' Program

In this program, a Probation Officer is involved as part of a total approach used to disseminate information to persons convicted of an impaired driving charge. On April 1st, 1973, this program was transferred from the Attorney General's Department to the Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission. The Probation Officer's responsibility in this program is to contact those persons who fail to attend the course they have been assigned to and to locate those individuals who have moved without providing their new address. In addition, our officers provide one lecture during each course on the aspects of probation. At present, this program is in operation in Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Expansion has been proposed to include Calgary, Red Deer, St. Paul, Cold Lake, Lac La Biche and Bonneyville.

D. Volunteer Program

This program started on a limited basis in the Edmonton office in early 1970, with two persons. It has since expanded to approximately twenty-six volunteer workers under a full time co-ordinator, and a part time assistant. These volunteers are used to supplement the basic work the Probation Officer does with his client and is client-oriented. The volunteers are trained in a four-week program conducted by the Edmonton Adult Probation Office. This program is presently undergoing an evaluation to determine the value of volunteers and some changes may be made in the future.

PROGRAMS, ContinuedE. Employment Program

This program has been in operation for several years on a rather limited basis. Essentially, this program was designed to find jobs and place suitable clients in such vacancies as existed. At this time this program has not been as functional as possible due to workload commitments. This program is one which could be extremely beneficial to our clients and, hopefully, it will become more active in the future.

F. Drug Offender's Program

This program was established in early 1971 in the Edmonton Adult Probation Office. In this program, we had three officers specialize in the handling of drug cases referred to our Branch by the Court. The program was designed to provide uniformity of service to the Court, as well as liaison with the Edmonton City Police and the R.C.M. Police drug squads, and the Department of Justice Prosecutors. In addition, the officers involved with this program became knowledgeable in the area of drugs and are valuable resource persons who are used in training programs and community awareness programs.

G. Preventive Services Program - School Project

This program began operating in 1970 on a limited basis, however it became more formalized in this year and a director was appointed to co-ordinate it. The basic objectives of the program are twofold: liaison with the schools and prevention by information. In this program, a Probation Officer is assigned to a school one-half day per week, and involved in three areas: 1) classroom discussion; 2) referral

PROGRAMS, Continued

system for resource people and; 3) limited individual counselling. In Edmonton, the program is functioning in eleven High Schools and two Junior High Schools. Interest has been expressed in this program by other offices and expansion is being considered into Lethbridge, Calgary and Wetaskiwin.

H. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROJECT

All Probation Officers across the province completed a number of questionnaires on Pre-Sentence Reports that they prepared. The object of this project is to determine sentencing patterns in the Province of Alberta. This project is financed, in part, by the Attorney General's Department, and is run by a doctoral student at the University of Alberta.

I. DELAYED PROBATION PROGRAM

In this program, a Probation Officer acts in a liaison capacity in one of the Provincial Correctional Institutions. He provides a service to inmates who are to be released on probation throughout the province. Thus, contact is maintained with clients at all time and contact with the community is effected prior to release.

J. POLICE - PROBATION OFFICER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This program is one which has a twofold function, which is reciprocal in nature. Firstly, Probation Officers coming on staff were placed in Edmonton City Police cars during two different nights, once with the patrol division and once with detectives. Information received

PROGRAMS, Continued

from our new staff indicate that they receive a real knowledge of the daily problems of the police and thus a greater understanding of their job. Secondly, members of the Edmonton City Police on either recruit training or refresher courses are placed, twelve at a time, with individual Probation Officers for an entire day. This allows the police officer an opportunity to examine and question the Probation Officer's role in the correctional cycle. This program is to be expanded to the cities of Lethbridge and Calgary during the coming year.

This program has exceeded our initial expectations and will be continued in the future with involved participation. The endeavor has done much to improve communication and understanding between the police and probation personnel.

K. STUDENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM

This program is designed to give students in universities and community colleges the opportunity to work in a correctional agency. The students are trained within the office they are assigned to, and function as Probation Officers two days per week. As this program requires a community college, technical school, or university to implement it, it can only be applied to such centers as Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Calgary.

L. EDMONTON FAMILY COURT CONCILIATION PROJECT

Funded by the Federal Government, this program utilizes the Family Court of Edmonton as a demonstration project to test the feasibility of combining social and legal services in a conciliation experiment within the framework of a domestic relations court. Since passage of Canada's Divorce Act, 1968, with its broader grounds for divorce, more

PROGRAMS, Continued

Canadians are resorting to legal remedies as a solution to marital difficulties, but unfortunately, nowhere within the legal system is there provision for conciliation services as an alternative to separation or divorce. The new Act, however, has given legislative recognition to reconciliation as a legitimate concern of the law and of the courts through Sections 7 and 8, wherein lawyers and judges are required to "enquire into the possibility of reconciliation".

Accordingly, and in keeping with the main purpose of the project, referrals to counselling services under the project are restricted to three sources:

- Family Court Judges
- Lawyers
- Supreme Court Judges

The project commenced in September, 1972, and by March 31st, 1973, over 150 referrals were registered. This program is to continue for a three year period.

The area of programs is an interesting one which can certainly add to job enrichment. In the coming year, we hope to be able to evaluate many of the existing programs and implement them on a wider basis across the Province. The future for programs in the Probation Service is an exciting one. The utilization of probation hostels is being looked into in Red Deer and Lethbridge, thus providing our clients with a more diversified service. Research is an area which will be explored considerably with projects designed to investigate recidivism of probationers. Programs designed to utilize group counselling are to be evaluated and implemented where feasible and requested.

Officers within the Edmonton office are presently involved in the development of a drug rehabilitation project utilizing a total treatment approach within the community. This project is planned to be operational by fall, 1973.

Finally, the cities of Edmonton and Calgary are being looked at with a view to dividing the city area into zones. Probation Officers would be assigned to these zones and hopefully, would establish closer liaison and rapport within the community.

2. FAMILY COURT

From the six main centres which have a Family Court, i.e., Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Grande Prairie, the Judges circuit to several other centres where hearings are held on a regular basis.

These centres are:

Brooks	Wetaskiwin
Blairmore	Camrose
Gleichen	Vegreville
Drumheller	Vermilion
Stettler	Lloydminster
Rocky Mountain House	Edson
Ponoka	Athabasca
	Slave Lake

In addition, in the town of Fort McMurray, the Provincial Judge is also designated as the Family Court Judge, thus providing citizens in that centre the services of a Family Court. Probation Officers in all centres, except for the exclusion of Edmonton and Calgary Adult Probation Offices, serve the dual role of Probation Officer and Court Counsellor.

When a client comes to Family Court on a referral for assistance, the entire marital situation is reviewed as thoroughly as the first interview permits. The focus is to preserve as much as possible the positive influences remaining in the original family unit. As is reflected in the increase in counselling interviews, the counsellors are devoting a greater percentage of their time to resolving marital disputes, although at the same time, not neglecting their obligation to process cases through the courts where the only remedy appears to lie in litigation.

One of the tangible results of court Hearings in the provision of maintenance for deserted families. In the past fiscal year, the Family Court realized some two million dollars in collections on Maintenance Orders, with well over half this amount being turned over to the Department of Health and Social Development on behalf of clients who are in receipt of Social Allowance.

FAMILY COURT, Continued

A further reference to the statistics provided earlier in this report, will note the Family Court workers serve the Supreme Courts in the Province by providing Custody Reports on cases where a serious dispute exists as to the home best suited to care for the children.

There is one other area in which the Family Court assists the Superior Courts: as provided by Section (6) of the Family Court Act, the Family Court can enforce arrears on a Supreme Court Order of Maintenance on behalf of any client who chooses to register the order for such action.

One matter which the Family Court makes very clear by its example, is the need to remain conscious at all times that the intimate problems which the parties bring to the Court are of immense importance to the parties who are often deeply emotionally involved and cannot bring to their own affairs a proper sense of proportion. Such a Court will be judged, not so much by what it decides, important and essential as that may well be, but rather by the sympathy and patience with which it deals with those problems, and by the atmosphere and facilities it provides for discussing them.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND PROJECTIONS

In order for our Probation and Family Court Services to be more effective, there are three essential factors which are indispensable:

- 1) Proper screening and selection (Pre-Sentence Investigation)
- 2) Adequate and proper supervision in the community, adjusted to the needs of the individual.
- 3) Counselling (when indicated) before litigation in domestic issues.

Probation may not involve punishment, but it does demand effort on the part of the probationer. The Probation Officer represents authority, but uses his authority to help the offender become independent of it.

The value of probation has been achieved when the immediate problems of the offender have been resolved, when any special conditions of probation have been met, and when a reasonable degree of stability and responsibility has been achieved by the probationer.

Probation Officers are gradually becoming more involved with the Correctional Institutions in our province. A great deal of information is being shared with the Social Service staff by way of Pre-Sentence Reports and discussions regarding pre-release plans of inmates, and delayed probation.

The Probation Officer has a vantage point in view of his training, experience and concern, which provides him with the unique opportunity to stimulate citizen participation. Unless the community accepts its responsibility, successful rehabilitation of the offender will not likely take place.

Both probation and marriage counselling success and failure are very difficult things to define or evaluate in terms of success and failure; however, they remain a method justified by the results.

With the addition of our new staff and restructure of our Head Office, we hope to concentrate on more intensive casework and closer supervision. Further, we plan to expand some of our existing programs to other areas of the province, and will concentrate on crime prevention. It is expected that before the 1973-74 fiscal year ends we will be able to report the commencement of two new Family Court Circuits covering areas thus far afforded only limited services. We propose to emphasize community involvement and will encourage citizen participation in the rehabilitation process whenever the need arises. Also, we hope to bridge the gap between Police, Courts, Prosecution and Probation, thereby promoting a team approach toward treatment and prevention.

Our future plans involve the utilization of research techniques to give us objective data on the type of service we have been providing. This would include a close look at recidivism as well as a profile development of the re-offender. In addition, we hope to effectively utilize research methodology in the area of planning and budgeting for the future.

Crime prevention and criminal rehabilitation are economically advantageous to society. In an effort to reduce recidivism rates, we propose to encourage community groups to become more involved in corrections and reform, and to support new correctional programs. Our goal must always be to develop or restore in the offender the capacity for lawful productive behaviour in the community, a goal for which punishment alone, in our complex, fast-moving society, is clearly an inadequate prescription for success.

The Probation and Family Court Services of Alberta in looking at future goals will make a constant effort to attain progressively higher standards.

These areas include personnel selection, gradual reductions in supervision loads, more comprehensive pre-sentence and custody investigations, and an improvement in the quality of marriage counselling. Regarding the Pre-Sentence Reports, these will have an increasing diagnostic value with the greater opportunity to utilize psychiatric services, wider enlistment of community resources, and fuller utilization of the growing body of knowledge in the correctional field.

In bringing together the offender and the community, each caring for the welfare of the other, lies the real hope for relief from the problems of crime.

Probation is a positive element of the criminal justice system that relieves overcrowding of prisons, averts criminal careers, and provides an umbrella of protection for the community.

We look for the 1973-1974 fiscal year to be an extremely interesting and rewarding one in which we will increase our professional staff substantially; implement new programs and expand existing ones, and embark on new developments in staff training.

